

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

19 Nov 81

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number,
building, Agency/Post)

Initials Date

1. C/Ops

2 20/11

2. C/LRB

20 20/11/5

3. DD/FBIS

m 11/23

4. D/FBIS

OK.

j 23 Nov

5. FCS - for typing

| Action | File | Note and Return |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Approval | For Clearance | Per Conversation |
| As Requested | For Correction | Prepare Reply |
| Circulate | For Your Information | See Me |
| Comment | Investigate | Signature |
| Coordination | Justify | |

REMARKS

Attached is ^{the} proposed draft letter to Senator Stevens re his request for consideration of the ideas from [] on Alaska as a broadcasting/monitoring site for the U.S. Govt. It is the consensus of FCS that while [] is not all wet, he has tended to overrate the potential of Alaska, at least as far as the kind of monitoring we do with most of our stations below the 45th parallel in the Far East/Siberia areas. In the draft response I have stressed our need for more centrally-located sites rather than address the specific points made by []

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)

Room No.—Bldg.

C/FCS

Phone No.

5041-102

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)

Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

27 Nov. 1981

| TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post) | | Initials | Date |
|---|----------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. | | <i>MSL</i> | <i>12/1</i> |
| 2. | ES/DCI STAT | | |
| 3. | Room 7E12 Hqs. | | |
| 4. | <i>Ken R.</i> | <i>KR</i> | <i>14/</i> |
| 5. | <i>ER</i> | | |

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Action | File | Note and Return |
| Approval | For Clearance | Per Conversation |
| As Requested | For Correction | Prepare Reply |
| Circulate | For Your Information | See Me |
| Comment | Investigate | Signature |
| Coordination | Justify | |

REMARKS

FYI

1-4 Pls ensure LLB is aware & has cy! if you didn't already do so yesterday)

Done on 30 November

4-5- For file

STAT

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post) | Room No.—Bldg. |
| <i>D/FBIS</i> | <i>1013</i> Key |
| STAT | Phone No. |

5041-102

☆ U. S. GPO: 1978-0-261-647-3354

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206

DUSTY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

| TO: | | ACTION | INFO | DATE | INITIAL |
|----------|-----------|-------------|------|------|---------|
| 1 | DCI | | X | | |
| 2 | DDCI | | X | | |
| 3 | D/ICS | | | | |
| 4 | DD/NFA | | | | |
| 5 | DD/A | | | | |
| 6 | DD/O | | | | |
| 7 | DD/S&T | X | | | |
| 8 | Chm/NIC | | | | |
| 9 | GC | | | | |
| 10 | IG | | | | |
| 11 | Compt | | | | |
| 12 | D/EE0 | | | | |
| 13 | D/Pers | | | | |
| 14 | D/OPP | | | | |
| 15 | C/EAS/OPP | | | | |
| 16 | C/IAS/OPP | | | | |
| 17 | AO/DCI | | | | |
| 18 | C/EAS/OPP | | X | | |
| 19 | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | |
| SUSPENSE | | 27 November | | | |
| | | Date | | | |

Remarks:

Please prepare acknowledgment to SecDef for DCI's signature and response to Stevens also for DCI's signature. Forward through C/EAS/OPP.

Executive Secretary

23 Nov 81

Date

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

November 2, 1981

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

[redacted]
Director
Foreign Broadcast Information
Service
P. O. Box 2604
Washington, D. C. 20013

Dear [redacted]

I am enclosing a query from [redacted]
[redacted]

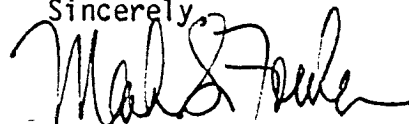
written to Senator Ted Stevens raising several interesting ideas based on his own experiences and observations of the potential of Alaska to serve the national interest.

Unfortunately, the Federal Communications Commission is not involved in the activities indicated in [redacted] letter, namely, foreign broadcast and electronic intelligence collection. Accordingly, I am forwarding this query to your agency for review, as it appears that some of the activities may fall within the purview of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. A response directly to Senator Stevens would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Mark S. Fowler
Chairman

Enclosure

United States Senate

OFFICE OF
THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 13, 1981

Director
Foreign Broadcast Information
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, D.C. 20013

STAT

Dear John:

We have been advised by Chairman Fowler that he has forwarded a letter to your office from one of my constituents in regard to foreign broadcast and electronic intelligence.

Enclosed is a copy of the FCC letter, as well as information that should be of interest to you in reference to

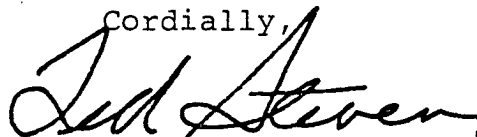
correspondence of September 9.

STAT

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

With best wishes,

Cordially,



TED STEVENS
Assistant Majority Leader

Enclosures

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

SEP 8 1981

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

Honorable Ted Stevens
Assistant Majority Leader
United States Senate
127 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

Thank you for forwarding the letter from [REDACTED]

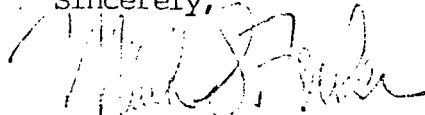
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
letter raises several interesting ideas. Unfortunately, the Federal Communications Commission is not involved in the activities suggested by Mr. Hiebert; that is, foreign broadcast and electronic intelligence collection, although during World War II the Federal Communications Commission was involved to a limited extent in this area.

However, in order to pursue [REDACTED] ideas more fully, we are forwarding his letter to the agencies with specific responsibilities in the area that [REDACTED] raises: the Foreign Broadcast Information Service and the U. S. International Communication Agency. We are requesting that these agencies expeditiously respond directly to you concerning [REDACTED] query.

I certainly understand your interest in the potential of Alaska in contributing further to the national interest, and I hope that our forwarding [REDACTED] observations to the appropriate agencies advances these goals.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Mark S. Fowler
Chairman

M.S.

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STAT

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

November 2, 1981

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

[redacted]
Director
Foreign Broadcast Information
Service
P. O. Box 2604
Washington, D. C. 20013

[redacted]
I am enclosing a query from [redacted]

[redacted] has
written to Senator Ted Stevens raising several interesting ideas based on his
own experiences and observations of the potential of Alaska to serve the
national interest.

Unfortunately, the Federal Communications Commission is not involved in
the activities indicated in [redacted] letter, namely, foreign broadcast
and electronic intelligence collection. Accordingly, I am forwarding this
query to your agency for review, as it appears that some of the activities may
fall within the purview of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. A
response directly to Senator Stevens would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Mark S. Fowler
Chairman

Enclosure

STEVENSON
ALASKA

FOB
11531

United States Senate

OFFICE OF
THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

RECEIVED

SEP 2 1981

MR. FOWLER

September 24, 1981

Mark S. Fowler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 "M" Street
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Fowler:

Enclosed is a letter from [redacted]

[redacted]
Alaska. I have known [redacted] for many years. He is a man in possession of great insight, especially in the area of communication.

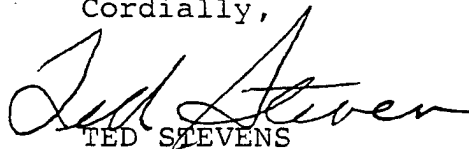
Augie has expressed an interest in employing Alaska's unique geography for purposes of electronic intelligence and national interest transmissions. This correspondence expresses his interest in pursuing the merits for both of these projects.

I would greatly appreciate your analysis of these ideas. I, and others in Congress, are interested in the potential of Alaska to contribute further for the national interests. We hope to be able to work with you to implement some of [redacted] observations in the near future.

I greatly appreciate your attention to this important matter.

With best wishes,

Cordially,



TED STEVENS
Assistant Majority Leader

Enclosure

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Anchorage, Alaska
September 9, 1981

Senator Ted Stevens
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

- Re: (1) Potential of Alaska as a base for short-wave transmissions to Iron Curtain countries.
- (2) Alaska as an intelligence listening post.

Dear Senator Ted:

When I visited with you at breakfast last May I touched on the above subjects briefly and you asked that I present my thoughts in writing.

During my first four years of radio engineering in Fairbanks (1939-1943) it was necessary to acquire news [] by copying Transradio Press. It came in via short-wave at 45 to 55 words per minute on various short-wave frequencies and throughout the day from several sources. The majority of these transmissions were from New York, a few from San Francisco and very few from Hawaii. The phenomena of short-wave fadeout conditions, wherein signals would simply disappear, sometimes almost instantaneously, sometimes after a fading process, was little known in those days. Now we know fade-outs are caused by violent solar eruptions, causing magnetic disturbances which are accentuated in Polar regions.

What I noticed while copying press was that short-wave signals (and standard broadcast band reception for that matter) would fade out first and most dramatically when the source was from an East-West path, and would be usable the longest (and may not disappear completely) when transmissions were from South to North location. Conversely North to South transmissions were always more reliable and effective than West to East during my Amateur Radio days in Fairbanks, and this phenomena was also noted during World War II when my short-wave transmitter, licensed experimentally []

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Senator Ted Stevens
 Page 2
 September 9, 1981

transmitted secret weather information, decoded from Soviet transmissions, to the South 48 for use by the Pentagon for planning strategic bombing of the Kuriles. This was part of

STAT
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[redacted]
 was also located.

From those early days experiences and studying the peculiarities of both short-wave and standard broadcast band propagation, I reached the conclusion that while Arctic Alaska, situated in the Polar Magnetic cap, suffered periods of severe fadeouts and complete loss of signals occasionally, this phenomena might well be turned to a useful advantage.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, [redacted] of Radio Free Europe and coordinated with Federal Agencies in raising funds. In 1959 I joined a group of other State Chairmen and we visited the Munich RFE Headquarters, and their transmitter site near Lisbon. We were told of the severe jamming problem the Soviet Union imposed on Iron Curtain Country citizenry, who depended on RFE and Voice of America for truthful information. It was then that I began to think of Alaska as the potential platform for short-wave transmissions to Iron Curtain target countries.

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The problem with transmitting from Lisbon to behind the Iron Curtain is the relatively short distance involved. This requires fairly low frequency transmissions which can be jammed quite effectively over widespread local areas.

Transmitting from Alaska, on higher short-wave frequencies would create more of a jamming problem, because local jamming devices on higher short-wave frequencies cover a fairly short radius, and the economics of building and operating large quantities of local jammers would be staggering. While it is true that there would be periods of time, during fadeout conditions, when no signals would propagate from the Arctic, still when propagation was superb, Alaskan transmissions would penetrate more effectively. Wouldn't it be better to have highly influential programming reach the target Iron Curtain countries most of the time than to be jammed virtually all the time?

Senator Ted Stevens

Page 3

September 9, 1981

The reason I have not brought this matter to your attention is concern over the economics of duplicating in Alaska what I saw at RFE in Munich. Until the advent of high quality program line service via Satellite, it did not seem feasible to have a redundant Headquarters programming operation in Alaska to feed programming to the transmitters. However, with sophisticated satellite communications now available on a world-wide basis, programming sources could come from anywhere in the world, and so could telemetry to switch transmitter frequency, switch antennas and perform other necessary command and control functions. The only Alaskan investment would be the necessary antenna farm, transmission equipment, and engineering staff on location to maintain it.

During recent months I have developed additional views on utilizing Alaska as a site for important U.S. Government activities. It has been my experience that during periods of good standard broadcast band propagation, early in the morning (especially during fall, winter and spring months when sundown conditions exist to the West, all kinds of foreign language signals can be heard, even on small transistor radios in the home. They appear to be Oriental in nature. A similar condition was noted in Nome during earlier years, because the Jesuit Fathers became disturbed that Alaskan Eskimo people could pick up Siberian broadcasts in English and there was little of any local broadcast programming to offset Soviet propaganda. This caused [] to acquire funds for a Nome radio station in 1965, at which time I helped him choose equipment and apply for a 10,000 watt Construction Permit which later []

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Actually, your acquisition of Congressional funding for the Federal Communications Commission to begin Arctic Propagation studies in the Standard Broadcast Band has led me to a new concept. When I discussed Arctic propagation with FCC Engineering staff members, I noted that they had a more than casual interest in what might also be heard from the West. The Arctic sky-wave studies you funded were primarily designed to monitor South 48 Clear Channel stations for engineering data to create new Class 1-A sky-wave curves which would correct and replace the ancient 1934 FCC Engineering curves prepared for latitudes below the Canadian border. Subsequently, at the time the contract with the University of Alaska/Geophysical Institute was being negotiated with the FCC, I asked Dr. Bob Hunsucker if he could provide the FCC with a "bonus" by orienting an antenna toward the West, and spend a little time monitoring what could be received from that direction. He agreed. He also reminded me that the Geophysical

Senator Ted Stevens
Page 4
September 9, 1981

Institute has been studying Arctic propagation, eruptions from the sun and other Polar phenomena for years, and has a wealth of material either in computers or stored in boxes from early studies before computers were available.

When I was in Washington last May, I learned from Engineering friends who are in a position to know, that the United States Government has found that monitoring foreign country standard broadcast band transmissions, which are designed for local listeners, affords important intelligence information because these "home" reports are related to existing realities, rather than propaganda released for foreign consumption. I understand that U.S.A. monitoring of Iranian home-broadcasts during the hostage crisis was especially revealing.

Therefore it would seem to me that a site in Alaska might also be considered for the location of a listening post for standard broadcast band transmissions from Siberia, North Korea, China, and the Soviet Union for that matter. Inspecting a globe, you will note that from Alaska, many of these countries are South, or almost on a North-South axis, which affords optimum transmission conditions except for extreme fadeout conditions.

I feel confident that there is engineering merit for both of the above projects and to prove it there might well be an additional study called for by the University of Alaska/Geophysical Institute. In addition to the quantity of related data in their own computers, they have access to a great deal of additional information contained in computers of the Stanford Research Institute. I'm confident the Geophysical Institute has the world's best supply of data vital to these topics.

One of the reasons I have been active during recent months supporting retention of the FCC Field Monitoring Station in Anchorage is because the functions of their operations might well be integrated into the Alaskan intelligence gathering potential referred to above.

Senator Ted, I believe there is much food for thought which might be of interest to the State Department, the DOD and the FCC - perhaps to other Government Foreign Service - contained in these observations.

Senator Ted Stevens
Page 5
September 9, 1981

Enclosed are copies of clippings accumulated during the past few years relating to the above, as well as other supporting information. If you would be interested in discussing this further while I am in Washington from September 25th to 30th I would be happy to do so.

Cordially,



Enclosures

STAT

Good financial news for RFE/RL

Reagan budget proposals give funding increase to both services

Reaganomics may be bitter medicine for most government programs outside defense, but not for U.S. propaganda and information efforts aimed at countering Soviet influence and spreading word of the U.S. around the world. Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe would receive about \$87 million more in operating funds under the Reagan budgets over the next two years than they would under those proposed by former President Carter. And Reagan plans essentially to keep Carter's proposals for the Voice of America, which involve an \$81-million increase in fiscal year 1982.

The Reagan proposals reflect administration determination to carry out Reagan's campaign pledge to tell the world of the superiority of the American system over Communism. And administration officials see the relatively small increases in the two broadcast services as an inexpensive way of engaging in that kind of debate worldwide.

Radio Liberty, which broadcasts news of the Soviet Union into that country, and Radio Free Europe, which offers domestic news to listeners in other Soviet bloc countries, are to be given the principal role in the ideological battle. National Security Council staff members, backed by NSC chief Richard Allen, are said to have taken the lead in proposing the increase for the two services, which are funded through the Board for International Broadcasting.

The Reagan administration is seeking a \$600,000 supplemental appropriation for RL/RFE in 1981, for a new total of \$100,300,000, as well as authority to divert to operational uses \$2,400,000 now earmarked for relocating RL/RFE personnel back to the U.S. The Reagan administration no longer plans those relocations. Much of the \$3 million total would be used to replace facilities lost in the bomb blast that wrecked the RL/RFE headquarters in Munich last month, as well as to initiate a new service aimed at Soviet central Asia.

The administration is seeking \$4 million more for 1982 than the \$94,317,000 Carter had requested. The reduction from 1981 is more apparent than real, since \$3 million of the 1981 funds is to meet currency devaluation needs, and would be carried over to 1982.

The major news in the budget for VOA—whose mission is to disseminate news of the U.S. worldwide—is the \$81 million being sought in 1982 to build relay stations in Sri Lanka and Botswana to transmit programming to South Asia and Africa. All told, the Reagan administration is seeking \$187,616,000 for the VOA next year, about \$1.2 million less than Carter had proposed.

Both the Carter and the Reagan budgets

Broadcasting
April 13, 1981

Bill to establish U.S. policy council for international communications ready for hearing

The United States' leadership role in supplying technology for international communications and information flow is threatened by certain other countries' policies limiting trade and freedom of information. The U.S. government is unprepared to negotiate agreements with these countries, because its communications policymaking is too compartmentalized to recognize and respond to the problem effectively.

These are the findings of a report to the House Committee on Government Operations completed late last year, entitled "International Information Flow: Forging a New Framework." The report is the basis for a bill to create an executive council to coordinate U.S. policy for international trade in communications technology and the flow of information, primarily through common carriers.

Introduced in mid-February by Representative Glenn English (D-Okla.) the In-

ternational Communications Reorganization Act will be the subject of hearings the Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights on March 31 and April 1. Although the bill's primary purpose is to solve problems for common carrier and equipment companies trading internationally, it is meant also to address "the erosion around the world of the basic democratic principle of the free flow of information."

A growing number of countries, according to the committee's report, are erecting barriers against trade in common carrier technology and free information exchange with the United States and other countries, for reasons both economic and political. "Whether or not the United States agrees," says the report, "the other nations of the world—particularly our trading partners in Canada, Japan and Europe—are in the midst of developing, have developed, comprehensive plans and policies which deal with the full range of information flow questions in an integrated manner."

To allow the U.S. to develop its policy, the bill (H.R. 1957) would create an executive-level Council on International Communications and Information. Headed by an executive secretary appointed by the President, the council

would have as its members the secretaries of state and commerce, the chairman of the FCC, the United States trade representative, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

According to the bill, the council "shall coordinate the policies and activities of all federal agencies involving international communications and information," shall "review all policy determinations of federal agencies, and all proposed actions of United States policy by agencies, relating to international communications and information, and shall approve, disapprove or modify any policy determination or proposed action."

for 1981 proposed about \$101.5 million for the Voice. But the Reagan administration would include \$1.2 million to keep open a VOA shortwave facility in Bethany, Ohio, that is heard in South America and Africa. The funds would be transferred from an account that was to finance an increase in personnel to do additional foreign language broadcasts. However, the Voice still plans to add the 64 3/4 hours of new programming weekly, to a total of 929 hours and 15 minutes by the end of 1981.

The Voice will add its 40th language in April, when it begins broadcasting in Azeri to the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, which borders on Iran.

The Voice of America: telling the world the truth

by Nick Thimmesch

Washington — The Voice of America escaped the wrath of Mr. Reagan's squinty-eyed, cost-cutting crusaders. It deserves to. The taxpayer gets his money's worth from VOA. Moreover, this national radio voice of the United States takes on new importance as the Reagan administration implements its no-nonsense policy toward the Soviet Union and the rest of the communist world.

A nation should operate from its strengths, and one great American strength is communications.

For nearly 40 years, the Voice of America has beamed broadcasts to all parts of the world. It is warmly welcomed, especially by people living in totalitarian lands.

VOA does first-rate work.

Its newscasts in 40 languages are delivered straight and with unsurpassed accuracy. Its "softer" programming tells the world what kind of people we are, how we live, what we are doing, and presents the music we sing, hum and play. It tells the world about our schools, movies, artists, medical scientists and working people.

It also lets the world know what our editorial pages and commentators are saying, including their criticisms of the U.S. government and our society.

VOA is honest radio. It also fulfills its responsibility to "present the policies of the U.S. clearly and effectively" through commentaries and discussions of U.S. official policy. Again, it's done straight and without the slant or invective characterizing the national radio systems of dictatorships.

A CUBAN NOW living in Europe recently wrote VOA, detailing his 15-year struggle to get out, and telling how, in Cuba, "The Voice of America was the most reliable source of information on the U.S., the world, and Cuba itself."

He said, "All dissidents, and that's 90 percent of the Cubans," enjoyed VOA broadcasts as "an escape for a few hours from the filthy, insufferable Communist propaganda of Castro's state-owned and controlled mass media."

His letter is one of 250,000 VOA receives annually from grateful listeners.

Cambodian refugees in Thailand listened to VOA to learn of the fighting between the Khmer Rouge and the Vietnamese. About 23,000 re-

quests came from Chinese listeners asking for materials to help them study English.

When the American businessman William Nelhous was kidnapped and held captive for three years in Venezuela, his captors allowed him to join them in listening to VOA, "My only real contact with the outside world."

Naturally, Communist regimes "jam" VOA broadcasts, usually cutting their penetration by around 30 percent. The Chinese Communists stopped "jamming" in late 1978. The Soviets suspended "jamming" from 1973 until last August when the rum-pus in Poland began.

VOA technicians noted that Cuba cut its "jamming" when the news broke on the shooting of President Reagan. The assumption was that Castro and his top officials wanted to learn every detail, and that VOA was the most reliable news source.

CUBA AND ALL Latin nations receive five and a half hours of VOA broadcasts daily from a transmitter located at Marathon, in the Florida Keys.

Sen. Jesse Helms pushes for a special "Radio Free Cuba" broadcast by VOA. Agency officials note, however, that such a project is outside the VOA charter, and besides, news and information targeted for Cuba alone would not have the credibility of the current Spanish language broadcasts going to all of Latin America. The point is well made.

Credibility and sensitivity to the circumstances of listeners are the name of the game at VOA. For example, Khmer language broadcasts don't open with the familiar Yankee Doodle music because that might give signals that the listening Cambodians are tuned to the forbidden VOA.

The VOA recently added Dari language broadcasts because that language is popular in Afghanistan. Farsi language broadcasts were stepped up in that Soviet-occupied nation last year. As soon as Azeri-speaking announcers can be hired, broadcasts in that language will be beamed into Azerbaizhan, a Soviet state adjoining Iran. Russian-language broadcasts were expanded in January.

The process of deciding to increase, expand or cut broadcasts is a slow one involving the State Depart-

ment, the National Security Council, affected embassies, and finally, Congress.

"We look at broadcasting as a long-range, strategic activity," explains Cliff Groce, VOA's program director. "We can't always get announcers quickly when we add an esoteric language broadcast. We were fortunate in getting some Farsi-speaking radio people because they left Iran quickly in rather hairy circumstances. It's not so easy getting someone who speaks Azeri."

THOUGH NEWS is VOA's main business, music gets the most mail, and programs such as the Breakfast Show are popular favorites. A "Press Conference U.S.A." program employs the "Meet the Press" format, with a news-making person being interviewed by American and foreign journalists.

Indeed, the America which comes out of VOA is a lively, open, joyful society, earnest and sometimes too honest. No wonder millions want to migrate to the United States, and only a few stragglers want to leave.

The 1982 operating budget for VOA is \$107 million, less than one-fourth the cost of refitting an old battleship.

Splendid as battleships look as they steam toward the sunset, those 891 hours of VOA broadcasts each week are a far better bargain.

Saturday, April 11, 1981

The Anchorage Times A-7

THE WASHINGTON POST Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1978

U.S. Radio May Air Communist Replies

Associated Press

The United States hopes it can end the jamming of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty by offering free time for responses by Communist officials, a government official said yesterday.

The free time proposal was outlined in the annual report of the Board for International Broadcasting, the government agency controlling the two U.S.-owned stations which broadcast to all of the Warsaw Pact nations except East Germany.

"We are prepared seriously to consider procedures for making time available for responses to those specific complaints [about programming or commentaries] which have merit," the statement said.

A board official, Tony Shub, said it would be up to the board to determine which complaints have merit.

The Soviet Union, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia try to completely jam

the stations," Shub said. "Poland jams some broadcasts. Hungary and Romania do not interfere at all."

When American delegates at the Belgrade Conference on the Helsinki Accords have protested that the jamming violates the treaty's call for free-flowing information, the Soviets have responded that they jam because the stations transmit "defamatory propaganda and serve as fronts for the Central Intelligence Agency." The CIA funded both stations until 1971.

Shub said the free time proposal was meant as a "civilized alternative to jamming." He said it would probably apply to both news stories and editorial comment if accepted by the Eastern European nations.

Shub said there has been no response as yet by the Communist countries, who he said heard of the proposal yesterday morning.

BBC, RFE/RL try to counter shortwave jamming by Soviets

In an attempt to overcome jamming of broadcasts by the Soviet Union, the BBC is increasing its Russian-language broadcasts, creating a five-hour block of programs each day.

The BBC Russian service has been jammed since last August, along with other Western services. The English-language world service is left alone, however. The BBC also announced that a new service would begin for Afghanistan in the Pushto language.

Jamming by the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries continues to pose problems for the American services, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty as well.

In its annual report to Congress, RFE/RL said that while the BBC and the Voice of America were free from jamming from 1973 to 1980, Radio Liberty (which broadcasts to the Soviet Union) has been jammed continuously since 1953, while Radio Free Europe is jammed continuously in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, and less effectively in Poland.

The financial statement showed that the two services received more than \$90 million through annual congressional grant in 1980, and incurred a loss of just over \$5 million. It projected that by fiscal year 1982, the annual budget will exceed \$100 million.

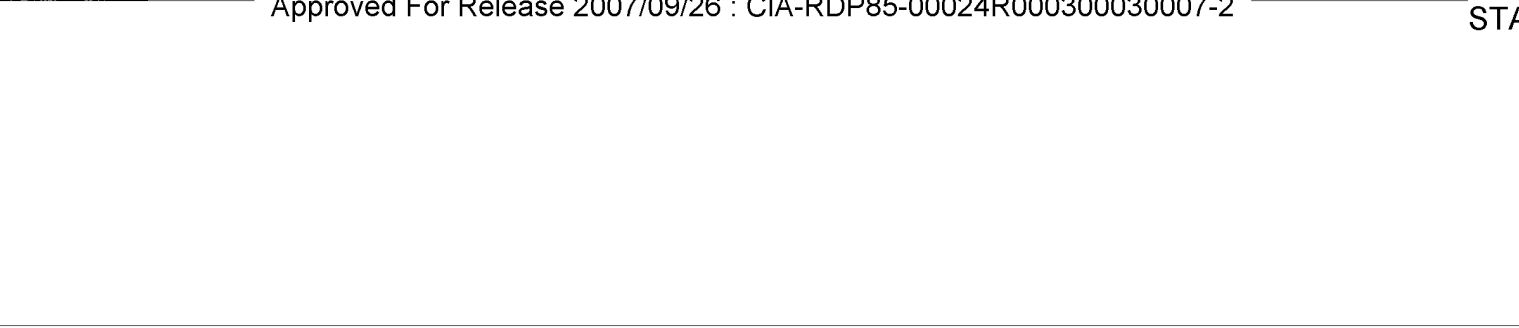
Broadcasting Apr 13 1981
141

4--TV DIGEST

MARCH 16, 1981

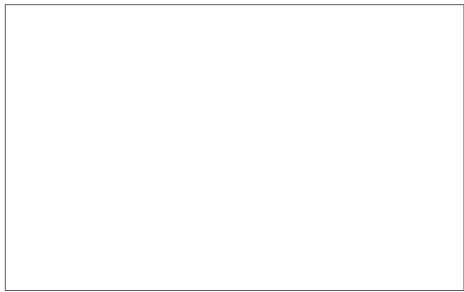
More foreign broadcasts will be integral part of Administration campaign to counter spread of Soviet influence. Plans include additional broadcasts to Central Asian regions of Soviet Union, bordering Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. As indication of new radio push, President Reagan said he would boost grants to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty from \$94.3 million recommended by previous administration to \$98.3 million, also will adopt for Voice of America previous administration's proposed \$188 million budget, up from this year's \$101.6 million.

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April 23, 1981

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Your recent mention of the possibility of locating VOA short wave radio stations in Alaska for the purpose of providing radio coverage of the Eastern bloc nations of Europe is most interesting. As a matter of fact, for personal reasons, I find the prospect not only exciting but also well grounded in technical justification.

As you know, one of my hobbies is Amateur Radio and I have found that reaching and communicating with the Communist nations of Europe is very easily accomplished from my location here in Fairbanks. I have many, many times talked with fellow amateurs in Poland, East Germany, Russia, Czechoslovakia and Rumania. It almost seems easier to contact stations in these countries than it is to contact stations in the contiguous states. I feel that the location of short wave stations in Alaska would be very advantageous from a propagational point of view as a result of my experiences on the amateur bands, particularly 20 meters. As you know one of the most used short wave broadcasting bands is 19 meters which, no doubt, would exhibit very similar propagation effects.

While your idea may, on the surface, might seem somewhat farsighted I can see a real benefit to the United States in its effort to inform the enslaved people of Europe through the natural advantage offered by the location of transmitters in Alaska. I would hope that others might realize the benefit of what you are proposing and I would offer whatever assistance I might be able to add to your efforts.

Best regards,



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